3/8/88 A3275-2

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 27 totaled 19.3 billion ton-miles, up 10.3 percent from the 17.5 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first eight weeks of 1988 was an estimated 147.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended February 27 totaled 428,106, up 9.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 4.8 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 4.8 percent in the East and 13.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 14,202 cars (13.2 percent), grain showed a gain of 7,832 cars (29.5 percent), and metals and products increased by 3,373 cars (38.5 percent). Fifteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended February 20 totaled 100,607 trailers and/or containers, up 6.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seven weeks of the year was 705,934 trailers and/or containers, up 5.9 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/27/88:

	Loadings in Week ended February 27, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,398	I	7,832	29.5	I	1,749	5.4
Other farm products	3,223	D	63	1.9	D	696	17.8
Metallic ores	14,423	D	143	1.0	I	2,494	20.9
Coal	121,427	I	14,202	13.2	I	4,120	3.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,789	I	2,491	24.2	D	33	0.3
Nonmetallic minerals	10,369	I	1,300	14.3	I	323	3.2
Grain mill products	10,970	D	462	4.0	I	493	4.7
Food and kindred products	11,754	I	562	5.0	I	648	0.6
Primary forest products	10,766	I	567	5.6	I	432	4.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,698	D	219	2.5	I	866	11.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,207	D	1,345	9.9	D	289	2.3
Chemicals and allied products	28,318	D	1,160	3.9	I	1,611	6.0
Petroleum products	5,012	I	258	5.4	I	222	4.6
Stone, clay and glass products	10,494	I	1,281	13.9	I	1,060	11.2
Coke	5,720	I	1,529	36.5	D	117	2.0
Metals and products	12,124	I	3,373	38.5	I	1,538	14.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,129	D	2,079	9.4	D	212	1.0
Waste and scrap materials	10,052	I	1,255	14.3	I	391	4.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,598	D	370	12.5	I	79	3.1
All other carloads	82,635	I	6,709	8.8	I	4,964	6.4
Total Cars Loaded	428,106	I	35,518	9.0	I	19,643	4.8
Corresponding week of 1987	392,588						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	3,264,923	3,083,012	I 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 weeks ended February 20	128.1	121.1	I 5.8
Week ended February 27	19.3	17.5	I 10.3
8 Weeks cumulative	147.4	138.6	I 6.4

//

AARL - 030388